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WHITIN, E. STAGG. *Penal Servitude*. Pp. xi, 162. Price, \$1.50. New York: National Committee on Prison Labor, 1912.

In this book the author has popularized the findings of the National Committee on Prison Labor. A report which would otherwise be read only by a narrow circle of specialists is thus made interesting and accessible to a wide group of readers. It is illustrated with photographs of prisons and of prison labor under a variety of conditions.

The material is organized in seven parts or general divisions as follows: I. The Economic Problem; II. The Political Problem; III. The Institution; IV. Employment; V. The Market; VI. The Educational Problems; VII. Methods of Reform.

The justification of the resolution of the committee "declaring itself opposed to the contract system of prison labor and to every other system which exploits his labor to the detriment of the prisoner" is shown by vivid pictures of conditions wherever exploiting systems exist. The reader is not wearied by citations of figures but is permitted to hear conversations and look into the institutions. It is an intensely human presentation. One is impressed as he reads with the lack of foresight and of genuine concern in the welfare of the prisoners. Even former prison reforms were directed chiefly toward the improvement of physical conditions. It is to the problems involved in "Penal Servitude," "the last surviving vestige of the old slave system" and its dehumanizing effects upon these unfortunate wards of the state, that the contents of the book is devoted and its message is indeed a valuable one.

WIEHL, OSCAR M. *Electoral Reform*. Pp. 32. Price, 6d. London: P. S. King & Son, 1912.

WILCOX, D. F. *Government by All the People*. Pp. xi, 324. Price, \$1.50. New York: Macmillan Company, 1912.

REVIEWS

BRAITHWAITE, WILLIAM C. *The Beginnings of Quakerism*. Pp. xlv, 542. Price, \$4.00. New York: Macmillan Company, 1912.

This volume is one of a comprehensive series on the origin and growth of Quakerism, under the general editorship of Dr. Rufus M. Jones. After a penetrating introduction on the Quaker type of mystical religion, contributed by the general editor, the author opens his work with chapters on the Puritan Revolution and the early life of George Fox. The body of the book carries the history from the pioneer work of 1649 to the close of the Restoration year, 1660. Other volumes are announced to continue the relation.

There have been some good brief sketches of early Quakerism written recently, but the only work comparable to the present volume both in quality and comprehensiveness is that by William Sewell, published in Dutch in 1717 and in English five years later. Sewell's history was carefully compiled and is still useful. The advantages of Braithwaite's volume over it are the following: Somewhat more space than Sewell gave to the same period; a nearer freedom

from sectarian bias; a better perspective of Quaker and other history and hence a better background and truer proportions; a much fuller collection of source materials as a basis; the modern mechanical make-up of reference notes, bibliography, a full index, and helpful maps.

The bibliography should be fuller than it is. It contains a good description of manuscript materials but no description or classification of the vast amount of printed matter.

For the most part the author seems to have maintained a good degree of critical impartiality. If, however, his judgments of the fanatical outbreaks among early Friends seem almost too charitable at times, he at least gives frankly the necessary facts for the formation by the reader of an independent judgment. The wonder will grow upon most readers that this zealous movement, constantly bordering at the first on hysteria, should yet have developed the ballast needful to steady it at length and bring it to a great mission.

Another interesting fact is that George Fox, the founder, discovered great religious groups already prepared for his message and that many of them came bodily into the new Quaker movement. It is well known that the Commonwealth period in England was a swarming time for mystical sects, yet few have realized the wholesale way in which the early Quaker leaders gathered in these swarms. As a somewhat similar process took place in the American colonies it would seem that Friends have been successful largely as a "convincing" rather than as an "evangelizing" body. In the early days they reached people who were already intensely religious and merely won them to a certain type of religious thought. Perhaps this accounts partially for their decline in numbers when sectarian lines became more stable.

This volume is a real addition to the literature of religious history. It would seem to justify George Fox's prediction in his testamentary papers that "all the passages and travels and sufferings of Friends in the beginning of the spreading of Truth, which I have kept together, will make a fine history."

R. W. KELSEY.

Haverford, Pa.,

BRYCE, JAMES. *South America, Observations and Impressions*. Pp. 611. Price, \$2.50. New York: Macmillan Company, 1912.

The announcement that Mr. Bryce was writing a book on South America aroused the keenest interest amongst students of Latin-American affairs. The breadth of view and depth of insight with which he has treated questions of political and historical interest gave assurance that this would be a notable work. This expectation has been in large measure justified, although one cannot but feel some disappointment that the author has devoted so much of the volume to descriptive matter such as is to be found in so many books of travel dealing with South America. The first eleven chapters are of this nature. The concluding chapters dealing with The Rise of New Nations, The Relations of Races in South America, The Two Americas, and the Relation of South America to Europe, The Conditions of Political Life in Spanish-American Republics and Some Reflections and Forecasts are the really notable chapters of the work. The fact that in